

### IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended)      The method of claim 10 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein causing the alignment material to align the carbon nanotubes comprises applying a shear force to the combined material.
3. – 4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended)      The method of claim 10 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the resulting combined material contains greater than five percent by weight carbon nanotubes.
6. (currently amended)      The method of claim 10 ~~[[1]]~~, further comprising combining a matrix material with the carbon nanotubes and alignment material to result in the combined material.
7. (original)      The method of claim 6, wherein the matrix material comprises at least one of silicone polymer, epoxy polymer, olefin polymer, indium solder, or tin solder.
8. (currently amended)      The method of claim 10 ~~[[1]]~~, further comprising combining a filler material with the carbon nanotubes and alignment material to result in the combined material.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the filler material is a thermally conductive material comprising at least one of aluminum oxide, boron nitride, aluminum nitride, aluminum, copper, silver, or indium solder.
10. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method, comprising:  
combining at least carbon nanotubes and an alignment material to result in a  
combined material;  
causing the alignment material to align the carbon nanotubes; and  
wherein the alignment material comprises a clay material.
11. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising preparing the clay material,  
wherein preparing the clay material comprises:  
dispersing the clay material in hot water having a temperature ranging from about 50  
degrees Celsius to about 80 degrees Celsius;  
adding cation salt to the clay dispersed in hot water;  
blending the cation salt and clay;  
isolating the clay; and  
reducing a clay particle size to a mean size of less than about 100 microns.
12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
combining an alpha-olefinic resin matrix material with the carbon nanotubes and the  
prepared clay to result in the combined material, the combined material  
having about thirty percent by weight carbon nanotubes, about 10 percent  
by weight prepared clay, and about sixty percent by weight alpha-olefinic  
resin matrix material;

wherein causing the prepared clay alignment material to align the carbon nanotubes  
comprises extruding the combined material; and  
dividing the extruded combined material into pads of a selected size.

13. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the clay material comprises a swellable free  
flowing powder having a cation exchange capacity from about 0.3 to about 3.0  
milliequivalents per gram of clay material.

14. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the clay material comprises platelet particles  
with a mean thickness of less than about two nanometers and a mean diameter from  
about 10 nanometers to about 3000 nanometers.

15. – 36. (canceled)